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DEPT FOR SCA/CEN (O'MARA), PM/SNA (LOFTIS)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAIR](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [KZ](#)

SUBJECT: KAZAKHSTAN: CIVIL AVIATION COMMITTEE SUGGESTS NEGOTIATIONS  
ON STATE AIRCRAFT FEES AGREEMENT

REF: Astana 1220 and previous

¶1. (SBU) Summary: The two Kazakhstani entities with the greatest interest in concluding a State Aircraft Fees Agreement with the U.S., the Civil Aviation Committee and KazAeroNavigatsiya, believe that the time is ripe for a U.S. negotiating team to come to Astana to conclude negotiations and initial the text. Post agrees that bringing a U.S. delegation would help speed up the sclerotic Kazakhstani interagency review process. End summary.

¶2. (SBU) Pol-Econ Chief, Econoff, and Economic Specialist met on July 2 with Radilbek Adimolda, Deputy Chairman of the Civil Aviation Committee of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, to discuss the current status of negotiations on the State Aircraft Fees Agreement (SAFA). Marat Dautaliyev, KazAeroNavigatsiya's Astana-based Deputy General Director, also participated in the meeting.

¶3. (SBU) Adimolda confirmed that the MFA had circulated the draft SAFA text for interagency review, and that many of the relevant ministries had already submitted their comments. The Ministry of Defense has no objections to the current language of the agreement. The Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning objected to the reference to commercial aircraft in Article I (which Adimolda acknowledged was added specifically to address Kazakhstani concerns). The Agency for Regulation of Natural Monopolies (ARNM), which regulates KazAeroNavigatsiya, opposed waiving the fees retroactively and wanted some part of the GOK to make up for the financial "gap" created by exemptions for U.S. state aircraft. Adimolda indicated that once all the comments were in, the relevant ministries would meet to decide which objections had merit and should be conveyed formally to the U.S.

¶4. (SBU) Adimolda said that he sees a need for engagement between a U.S. delegation and a GOK interagency working group headed by a Vice Minister of Transport and Communications. The delegations, he added, should be of high enough level to be able to make decisions and initial the agreement. It would then need to be sent for final interagency review, signed, and ratified. Adimolda remarked that additional information regarding how the U.S. has resolved this issue with other CIS countries would be helpful in garnering support for the agreement.

¶5. (SBU) Comment: Post believes that sending a USG delegation to Astana with the authority to initial an agreement would give additional impetus to the Kazakhstani review process and bring us closer to resolving the long-standing aircraft fees issue. End comment.

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